



***MEDIA RELATIONS UNIT***  
***1100 Washington Avenue***  
***Miami Beach, FL 33139***

**NEWS RELEASE**

**(305) 673-7383 Fax 673-7065**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date: December 1, 2004**

**Contact: Detective Bobby Hernandez**

**Phone: 305-673-7383**

**Reviewed by:**

**PIO #: 04-36**

---

---

**Holiday Safety Tips**

---

---

With the proximity of the holiday season, the Miami Beach Police Department reminds citizens to make a conscious effort to take precautions for their own safety.

**HOLIDAY SHOPPING**

- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Carry only your credit cards, debit cards or checks and your driver's license. If you must carry a purse, do not wrap the straps around your arms or shoulders. You could risk injury from a would-be snatcher.
- Do not carry wallets in a back pocket.
- Park in well lighted areas so you can see your vehicle from as far away as possible. Always lock all doors whether you are in or out of your car. Take note of where your vehicle is parked to avoid hesitation when returning.
- Shop with a friend; there is safety in numbers. Be alert of your surroundings and the people near you.
- Large shopping bags from "high dollar" stores are an advertisement for thieves who are looking to steal "high dollar" merchandise. When possible, slip bags/purchases in a plain, nondescript bag.
- Make multiple trips to your car to store your purchases periodically rather than carrying all of them at one time. Store the packages in the trunk of the car to avoid visibility. Be observant of anyone watching and, if possible, move the car to another parking space. When returning to your vehicle, have your car keys ready. Ask shopping center security to escort you to your car if you are uncomfortable walking alone.
- Glance in the back seat and under your vehicle before getting in.
- If you think someone is following you, do not go home: drive to the nearest police or fire station, a gas station or a well lighted place where there are people to help you.

## **HOLIDAY TRAVEL AND AT HOME**

- Get an automatic timer(s) for your lights. Give the appearance that your home is occupied.
- Ask a neighbor to watch your home, collect mail and newspapers or have the deliveries stopped.
- Have a neighbor park their car in your driveway.
- Do not leave a key hidden outside of your home. Leave it with a neighbor who would also know how to contact you in case of an emergency.
- Make an inventory and take pictures of your valuables. This is especially useful for insurance purposes in case of a burglary or a fire.
- Keep the outside of your home well lighted with doors locked and curtains closed.
- Do not display your Christmas tree to be seen from windows or doors.
- After the holidays, do not advertise gifts received by the boxes left for garbage collection. Destroy boxes and place them in sealed garbage bags.

## **Enhanced Patrol**

- There will be a significant increase of Police presence, both uniform and plain clothes, working during the Holiday Season. These additional Officers will be placed in strategic locations throughout Miami Beach

***The Miami Beach Police Department would like to wish our Residents, Businesses and Visitors a happy and safe holiday season***